GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:290
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
AWARENESS PROGRAMME FOR MIGRANTS
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Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The approximate number of Indians working in the Gulf countries at present;

(b) The number out of them not getting protection of labour laws;

(c) Whether the Government plans to launch multimedia awareness and publicity campaign for migrants;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) Whether any private participation is likely to be involved in this plan;

(f) If so, the details thereof;

(g) Whether concerned Ministries/ Departments have also been taken into confidence for better implementation of this plan;

(h) If so, the time by which this plan is likely to be implemented;

(i) The number of Indians imprisoned in jails of Gulf countries at present; and

(j) The steps taken by the Government to get them released at the earliest?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (VAYALAR RAVI)

(a)& (b): The Indian workers in the Gulf are estimated to be about 4 million. While exact number are not available, a large number of these workers

(about 43% in Saudi Arabia and 48% in Kuwait) are in the unorganized sector and are not covered by labour laws in the Gulf.

(c) to (h): The Protector General of Emigrants has from time to time been making efforts to create awareness among potential emigrants about their rights and duties through publication of an information handbook on emigration, pamphlets and advertisements.

(i): According to the information received from the Indian Missions in the Gulf, the number of Indians in jails are as under:

Saudi Arabia	1116
UAE	825
Kuwait	111
Bahrain	86
Qatar	32

(j) The officials in Indian Missions in Gulf countries visit the jails periodically or whenever required to ensure Consular access to the arrested Indians with a view to ascertain the possibility of their release at the earliest opportunity. The Missions also take up their cases with the local Government authorities in this regard. Besides, the Indian Missions send requests for Royal Pardon for release of Indian prisoners on humanitarian grounds during the holy month of Ramadan.